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TS-158532
Copy 1 of 12

24 August 1956

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics

SUBJECT : Upper Atmosphere Research Studies (AQUATONE)

1. A recent examination of Project AQUATONE cover preparations was initiated by members of the Project staff in an effort to determine the existence of and correction of any possible weaknesses. One quite apparent weakness is our lack of any of the research studies which had originally been planned for use as an additional backstop to our post loss explanation.

2. It is my understanding that, until recently, the reason for the non-production in this area has been the lack of sufficient facilities, procedures for handling the data obtained and clearances concerning certain personnel. I have now been informed that necessary facilities are available and processing procedures and clearances have been approved by this Office. It is for this reason that I communicate with you now and seek your kind assistance in expediting the much needed studies desired by this Organization.

3. As a matter of clarification as to why such studies are considered important, I wish to note that in order to lend credence to all of the counterpropaganda we would have to generate in event of a loss, we would point to the upper atmosphere data and studies produced by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics and the Air Weather Service. Such action would confirm the fact that the data collection program was, in fact, legitimate and productive.

4. We now have been actively engaged in operations for several months, however, the longer we remain in operation the greater the possibility we have of a loss. We do have photos of the meteorological configuration which we would allege was carried by any lost aircraft but to further this camouflage we should be in a position to produce the research studies prepared from data obtained to date.

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5. I am sure you will agree with me concerning the importance for preparing the upper air research studies and I personally will be very grateful for whatever action you take towards expediting the preparation of these studies.

6. Permit me at this time to express the appreciation of the Project staff for the attention that has been given by your Organization towards the furtherance of our program.

RICHARD M. BISSELL, Jr.
Project Director

TMA:aml (24 Aug 1956)

- 1 & 2 - Addressee
 - 3 - Proj. Dir. ✓
 - 4 - Dep. Proj. Dir.
 - 5 - Dir. of Admin
 - 6 - Dir. of Ops
 - 7 - Dover Reading
 - 8 - Cover Subject
 - 9 & 10 - SO (I BLDG)
 - 11 - Proj Chrono
 - 12 - Proj Reading
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